

# White Cloud

# Kansas Chief.

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THE CONSTITUTION AND THE UNION.

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VOLUME I.

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## Choice Poetry.

### OLD LETTERS.

There's a package of old letters in that little rosewood box,  
Which the key tied to this letter, wore upon my heart,  
Unlocks;  
Will you go and get the package, and the letters read to me?  
I have tried to do it often, but, for tears, I could not see.

Ye have brought them—thank you, darling—now sit upon  
The bed,  
And let me gently to your bosom, poor, throbbing, burning  
Heart, from him come.

Read the old words distinctly, that I lose not even one;  
Oh, the passion that passed them, its last word for me is done!  
But if you should ever "see him, whom I never more shall see,"  
Tell him that the sweetest "show his dear letters were to me";  
That I never ceased to love him, never doubted that he loved;  
That my faith in him was perfect, and remained through all  
His sorrows.

And, oh, tell him, when he came not, as he promised he would come,  
If I could not chase out sorrow, that my girl for him was dumb;  
That I never yet repented him, as a word of "come" was spoken;  
That his memory must be gentle to the heart his coldness broke.

Tell him, through the years which followed, when no one  
Saw from him came,  
For his absence, nor his silence, was I ever heard to blame;  
Oh, this wild desire to see him, God, within my heart!  
For it took me into torture, and my soul hath need of rest.  
When I'm dead, and in my coffin, and the shroud about me wound,  
And my narrow bed is really, in the pleasant church-yard ground,  
Lay the letter and the letters both together on my heart,  
And the little ring to give me, never from my finger part.  
Now, I'm ready, read the letters, the dear letters, once again;  
As I listen while you read them, I shall lose all sense of pain;  
And if, when you have finished, I should gently fall asleep—  
Gently fall asleep, and wake not—dearest sister, do not weep!

### HOW IT WAS.

BY ROBERT JOSELYN.

I was sitting on the sofa, little Minnie by my side;  
She was knitting, and the space between us wasn't very wide.  
As I gazed upon her pretty face, I saw the blush rise;  
And the little dew still fast, and the downward cast her eyes.  
I heard her heart beat tender, and her bosom rose and fell;  
With a motion like the ocean, when it has a gentle swell;  
The pretty tears were starting in her smiling eyes of blue,  
And the little space between us, to a less than nothing grew.  
I stole my arm around her waist, I clasped her to my breast;  
She struggled like a frightened bird, when caught upon her nest.  
Now I heard her breathe the courage, the lock, I never knew;  
But I kissed her, and I kissed her, until Minnie kissed me, too.

## Miscellaneous.

### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

LECOMPTON, K. T.,  
Saturday, September 9, 1857.

**FIRST DAY.**  
The Convention elected to frame a Constitution for the future State of Kansas, met here on Monday last, and took their seats at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Dr. Little, of Bourbon, was nominated temporary Chairman.  
Mr. Thomas C. Clark was appointed Secretary pro tem, and Mr. Wallace, door-keeper pro tem.  
On motion of Mr. Hugh M. Moore, of Leavenworth, a Committee on Credentials was appointed, consisting of Mr. Moore, himself, Major L. S. Boling, of Douglas; Dr. Lykens, of Lyons; Dr. Hamilton, of Bourbon; and W. Adams, of Atchison.

To this Committee was referred the general certificate of the Territorial Secretary, affirming that the members named in the list submitted by him had been duly elected.

After the adoption, on motion of Mr. Jenkins, of Marshall, of a resolution providing that the officers of the Convention consist of a President, a President pro tem, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Reporter, a Sergeant-at-Arms, and a Door-keeper, the Convention adjourned till Tuesday morning, at ten o'clock.

**SECOND DAY.**  
The Convention met on Tuesday morning, according to adjournment.

Mr. Moore, from the Committee on Credentials, reported that the Committee had examined the evidence supplied to the Convention in reference to the right of membership, and had instructed him to report as duly elected, the names of the persons contained in the list furnished by the Secretary of the Territory, with two alterations—one, correcting the spelling of the name of Mr. J. W. Randolph, as Delegate elected from the County of Atchison, in place of Mr. G. W. Sweeney, resigned.

On motion of Mr. McKown, the report was received and adopted. The names of the Delegates are, therefore, as follows:

Adkins, James  
Blair, S. P.  
Bryant, Milton E.  
Bayne, Alexander  
Boling, L. S.  
Butcher, Harrison  
Bradford, J. S.  
Bazlow, J. H.  
Christiano, Wm.  
Connell, Jesse  
Chiles, Thomas  
Calhoun, John  
Dolman, Cyrus  
Doniphan, James  
Davis, W. H.  
Danforth, J. H.  
Eastin, Lucien J.  
Kookogee, S. J.  
Kykendall, James  
Larrey, P. H.  
Lykins, David  
Little, B.  
Matthews, Wm.  
Moore, Hugh M.  
Martin, John W.  
Mobley, C. R.  
McKown, G. W.  
Oden, H. D.  
Overstreet, Geo.  
Reynolds, Jas. J.  
Rively, M. P.  
Redman, Green B.  
Randolph, J. S.  
Reid, S. G.

Elmore, Rush  
Foreman, H. W.  
Greenwood, D. F.  
Hereford, J. T.  
Hascall, J. S.  
Henderson, John D.  
Heiskell, Wm. A.  
Hayne, S. H.  
Hamilton, G. P.  
Jenkins, Wm. H.  
Jones, Batt  
Jones, A. W.  
Key, Thomas J.  
Wilsou, H. T.

A motion, originally proposed by Mr. Jenkins, and subsequently amended by Messrs. A. W. Jones, Major L. S. Boling, Gen. Calhoun, and others, was passed, providing that the members of the Convention be required to take an obligation of fidelity to the Constitution of the United States, and to the Organic Act of the Territory, known as the Kansas Nebraska Act, and that the oath be administered by a legally authorized officer.

The Convention then proceeded to vote since noon for a permanent President, and elected Gen. Calhoun, by the following vote:

Gen. J. Calhoun, 27  
Hon. Rush Elmore, 12  
Gen. J. L. Eastin, 6

Majority for Calhoun, over both opposing candidates, 9.  
On taking his seat, as Chairman, Gen. Calhoun addressed the Convention, as follows:  
**GEN. CALHOUN:**—For the very flattering expression of your sentiments in conferring on me the office of President of this Convention you have my profound acknowledgments. I am fully aware of the importance of the position which you have assigned to me; and I think also, of the importance of the mission which has brought us together on this occasion. I know well that it will be utterly impossible for me to perform the duties of the office to which I have been called, unless I have the hearty co-operation of the friends around about me. To fulfill these duties to the extent of my ability, I will, it is unnecessary for me to say, exert my utmost efforts. Indeed, you have the assurance of that in the fact of my having accepted the position conferred on me.

The meeting of a Convention to frame the Constitution of a new State, is under ordinary circumstances, a matter of no great interest. The young State may spring into being and reach great consequence in the National Congress and in the National history, but still, that will be the uniform course of the States of the Union. We meet here to-day under extraordinary circumstances, and I trust that every member of this Convention has come here to-day to discharge his duties, fully impressed with the high responsibilities that attach to him, and with their importance not only to Kansas, but to the Union of which we propose to become a member. A Constitution wisely framed, and properly, fairly and honestly adopted by the true citizens of Kansas, will settle all the difficulties that surround us, and that have been surrounding us, and will at once restore harmony to the Union. I may remark here, without perhaps doing injustice to the feelings of any honest and true lover of his country, that the formation of such a Constitution prostrates and crushes to earth a party that is seeking every means within its power to obtain ascendancy, even at the sacrifice of the Union itself. It is not merely Kansas, it is the Union that is interested in the settlement of our difficulties. This Convention is not merely the interest of the people here, but of the people representing the Republic. One of the greatest issues to be solved by this Convention, is, whether the people of this Territory shall have power to control its government. To make a Constitution is but a small affair. Not a single principle will be embraced in the Constitution to be framed during this session, that has not been already implanted in other Constitutions. The old original Constitutions of the American States, contained some errors which have since been corrected by the popular sentiment; and wherever old Constitutions have been revised and altered, or new Constitutions framed, they have had expressed in them the principle that the people have the right, and shall elect, not merely Governors and Presidents, and the various officers that are usually elected by the people, but also Judges.

These improvements have been made within the last quarter of a century, and are expressed not only in the Constitutions of such of the old States as have held Conventions within that time, but also, in those of the new States that come into the Union. There are, therefore, no new principles to be decided in these Conventions to frame Constitutions. But the people of Kansas assume the right to settle their local questions for themselves, and it is that which produces the difficulties not merely in Kansas, but throughout the Union. Those difficulties must be settled by your deliberations. I think that the character of the members of this Convention over which I have the honor to preside, ought to give the world the assurance that their deliberations will result, not merely in the settlement of the question as to whether this Union shall continue, and as to whether that party which is employing its time and its treasure to keep this an open question till the next Presidential contest, will stand or fall. If the Union stands, that party goes by the board. If that party triumphs, this Union cannot live. The high and responsible duty therefore devolves on us, to take into our hands the organic act of this Territory, and, acting upon its principles, to present to the Congress of the United States a constitution, framed in such a manner, and having such an endorsement, as that we may not merely petition for admission to the Union, but demand that we shall be admitted. I trust that wise counsels will prevail here. I am confident, from my knowledge of this Convention, that such will be the case. There may be particular points on which individual members will plant themselves; but still, I trust that every member of this Convention will bring to bear in the judgment of all issues that may be presented, that calm, sober deliberation, becoming states-

men who have met together to found a government—who have met together to lay the foundations on which a great people shall have to rest. I am fully confident that you will be, and are fitted to the occasion; and, gentlemen, I can give you the assurance, that in all your actions that will be just and proper to Kansas; just, proper, and right to the principles of the Government under which we live, and which looks to the prosperity of Kansas, and the preservation of the Union, you shall have my full, hearty and honest co-operation. I again tender to you my thanks for the honor which you have conferred on me; for I deem it a higher honor to stand here to-day, the presiding officer of this Convention, than to fill any other position that the American people could confer upon me. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Hugh M. Moore, of Leavenworth, and Mr. George Cramer, of Leocompton, were elected respectively President pro tem. and Sergeant-at-Arms, by acclamation.

Messrs. Thomas C. Hughes, J. E. Nounman, P. H. Carey and Col. Cook were elected Secretary, Reporter and Door-keeper, respectively, by large majorities over their opponents.  
On receiving the official announcement of the election, and being conducted to the Chair, Gen. Calhoun made a speech to the Convention, in which, after returning his thanks to the Convention for the honor they had conferred on him, and expressing his high opinion of the importance of the position to which he had been elected, he stated that he believed and unwavering trust, that if the Convention submitted the Constitution to the true citizens of the Territory, not only would Congress admit them as a State, but they would feel warranted in demanding admission without further parley.

After the transaction of some formal business, the Convention adjourned for the day.

**THIRD DAY.**  
The Convention met at 10 A. M.  
The President was accompanied to the Chair by the Rev. John G. Magee, the chaplain.

After the assemblage had been called to order, the chaplain was introduced to the Convention, and after returning his most sincere thanks for the honor of his appointment, offered the following prayer:

"May the Lord God, in his infinite wisdom, imbue this Convention, and each of its members, with the same spirit with which He imbued Washington, Jefferson, Adams, and the immortal Patrick Henry."

The minutes of the previous session were then read, and after considerable amendments, emendations and additions, approved. The President undertook to supervise the daily record for the future.

Several members who had not before been in attendance, were sworn in.

Mr. Thomas J. Key, from the Committee on Rules and Regulations, presented a series of rules for the government of the Convention, and arranging the order of business.  
After reading these rules, Mr. Key submitted an additional one, which, he said, had been handed to him by one of the members of the committee; prohibiting smoking in the apartment during the hours of session. This led to an earnest discussion, which was terminated by the declaration on the part of Mr. A. W. Jones, of Douglas, that he had written the resolution as a joke, directed against Col. J. D. Henderson who was then smoking, and that he not only did not expect that it would be passed, but had hardly thought it such an one as would be offered.

The resolution was withdrawn.  
After some discussion as to the proper mode of disposing of the report of the Committee on rules and regulations, it was eventually resolved on the motion of Mr. Dolman, of Nemaha, that it be received, and 100 copies of it printed for the use of the members.

Major L. S. Boling, of Douglas, moved that the Convention now proceed to the election of a public printer. Carried.  
Mr. Boling nominated for the office Col. J. D. Henderson, of the Leavenworth Journal, and urged his election in terms of high personal compliment, and spoke of the political course, and mechanical execution of that journal in a style of lofty compliment.

Mr. Danforth, of Johnson County, placed in nomination Mr. S. G. Reid of the Tecumseh Note Book, whose services he said, though not so long duration as Col. Henderson's, had been equally as valuable to the party which the convention represented.

Mr. Blair, of Doniphan, nominated Mr. Thos. J. Key; Mr. Key declined on the ground that a few weeks since, the opposite party had indulged in threats, which if carried into execution, would not leave him in possession of a press a week hence.

Mr. Randolph, of Atchison, did not expect to support Mr. Key, of the Constitutional, in the matter, but he hardly thought Mr. Key's press would go in the river this fall.  
Mr. Jenkins, of Marshall, Mr. Wells, of Douglas, and several others urged on the convention, the propriety of postponing the consideration of the subject until some future occasion, so as to give the incurring of extravagant debts which their constituents would have to pay, and on motion of the former, the election of a public printer was made the special order for Thursday morning.

Mr. Hugh M. Moore, of Leavenworth, proposed that a committee consisting of a member be appointed to draft a constitution for the State of Kansas, and report the same to this Convention on the day of—or as soon thereafter, as possible. This resolution was simply meant, he said, for the purpose of bringing the matter before the Convention.

Judge McKown, of Calhoun, thought the motion of the gentleman from Leavenworth, (Mr. Moore), was quite an unusual mode of proceeding, and offered a resolution providing that the President of the Convention be required without delay to appoint standing committees to the number of five each, who should report to the Convention upon the several heads of the Constitution following, to-wit:

1st. State Boundaries.  
2d. Bill of Rights.

3d. Division of Powers.  
4th. Legislative Powers.  
5th. Executive Powers.  
6th. Judiciary.  
7th. Elections.  
8th. Militia.  
9th. Inferior Officers.  
10th. Religion.  
11th. Finance.  
12th. Internal Improvements.  
13th. Slavery.  
14th. Amendments.  
15th. On Enumeration.  
16th. On another Convention.

Mr. Hascall, of Atchison, voted the adoption of another committee on miscellaneous provisions.

These, Judge McKown said, were all the general heads embraced in the Constitutions of Virginia and Illinois, which, after an attentive examination of all the Constitutions, he had found to be the best.

Mr. Moore made a speech in reply, in the course which he asserted with eloquent emphasis, that he had disregarded every precedent in order to bring the subject before the Convention in its simplest form, and hoped that the resolution of the gentleman from Calhoun (Judge McKown) would be laid on the table.

Judge McKown replied that it was an observation generally made by philosophers, that we had two sources of knowledge, our own reflection and the reflecting of others. He was hardly so vain as to depend entirely upon his own reflection, especially in a matter of such infinite importance to the country as the forming of a Constitution for Kansas. He went back to the great lights of the early days of the Republic, and to the Constitutions which had been matured through the wisdom of ages, and he had been somewhat guided by them. In reading the reports of the Topeka Convention, he now recollected distinctly that the resolution calling that body into business on the Constitution was almost precisely the same as that now introduced by the gentleman from Leavenworth, and he thought at the time that it was a very clumsy and ill-gotten thing. The chairman decided the whole debate to be out of order, inasmuch as it was based on a resolution to lay on the table.

Mr. Wells, of Douglas, got leave to address the convention, and argued against the adoption of Judge McKown's resolution on the ground that the Convention had not yet been thoroughly organized. He submitted a certificate from the Territorial Secretary, affirming the receipt of returns showing the election of A. W. Jones as a member of the Convention, from Franklin County, who promised to report definitely tomorrow. Judge McKown's resolution was then laid on the table by a large vote.

On motion of Major Vandercil, the rules and regulations for the Convention that had been reported by the committee appointed for the purpose, were adopted unanimously.

After passing a resolution appointing a committee to confer with the official reporter as to the manner in which the report should be made and the terms for which it should be furnished, the Convention resolved to meet henceforth at 9 o'clock, every morning, and then adjourned for the day until that hour on Thursday.

**FOURTH DAY.**  
The Convention met at 9 A. M.

After prayer by the chaplain, and the reading and approval of the minutes, Major L. S. Boling, of Douglas, offered a resolution providing that the compensation for the printing be the same as that allowed by the last Territorial Legislature.

Mr. Jenkins, of Marshall, moved that a standing committee of five be appointed on printing, through whose hands all the matter for publication should pass, and to whom should be referred all the bills for work done.

Mr. Randolph offered a resolution to the effect that the public printer be directed to have the Constitution printed within five days after its being framed. Considerable discussion ensued.

The proposition of Mr. Randolph was put to the House and lost. After a spirited debate on a motion to reject the propositions of both Mr. Boling and Mr. Jenkins to a select committee, and a withdrawal of that motion by Mr. Vandercil, on receiving the assurance of Mr. Boling that there was a gentleman in the Convention who was prepared to take the contract for the printing on the terms provided for in the resolution; the motions of both Mr. Boling and Mr. Jenkins were adopted.

Judge Elmore presented a report from the committee on elections in reference to the claims of the irregularly elected delegates (Free State) of Anderson County, to seats in the Convention. The report was accompanied by a resolution to admit them as delegates, and its adoption was urged by the chairman of the committee, who stated among other things, that there had been a similar precedent furnished by the California convention; and that the committee in their construction of the law, had received the concurring opinion of the United States District Attorney.

Judge McKown moved that the report be received, and be made the special order for tomorrow.

Judge Elmore, of Shawnee, and Mr. Wells, of Douglas, argued the propriety and necessity of immediate action.

Mr. Little, of Bourbon, took an opposite view of the subject, and took the report on the ground that the law made the maximum number of member sixty. After further discussion the motion of Judge McKown to make the report the special order for Friday morning was adopted.

The Convention then proceeded to the election of a public printer, and chose Col. J. D. Henderson, of the Leavenworth Journal, over J. W. Driggs of the National Democrat, Leocompton, by a vote of 26 to 16.

Mr. A. W. Jones from the Committee on Conference with the official reporter, presented a series of resolutions prescribing the mode of preparing the report, and the compensation therefor. It was adopted on motion of Major Vandercil by a vote of 24 to 13.

The resolutions offered yesterday by Mr. Moore, of Leavenworth, and Mr. McKown, of Johnson, being the special order for the day, were called up and read by the clerk.

An amendment to that of Mr. Moore was offered by Mr. Little, of Bourbon, to the following effect: Resolved, That committees of—be appointed to draft a Constitution for the State of Kansas, and report the same to this Convention on the first Monday in November. This amendment was offered, Mr. Little said, as a test question on the matter of the proposed adjournment of the Convention, before framing a Constitution.

Mr. Jones, of Johnson, offered a resolution (or amendment rather,) that the President appoint committees of five each to report upon the following subjects for a Constitution: Executive, Judicial, and Legislative departments, Slavery, Finance, Internal Improvements, Education, and miscellaneous provisions, and whose duty it should be to report to the Convention as soon as they had finished their labors of examination, deliberation, and preparation.

A delegate objected to the motion as out of order.

Mr. Dolman, of Nemaha, offered a resolution, which after being amended by him on the suggestion of Mr. Jenkins, and by the consent of Mr. Moore, was offered as a substitute, as follows: Resolved, That a Committee of one from each district be appointed by the chair to report at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the titles of the various subjects of which the Constitution should treat.

Mr. Hascall objected to the substitute on the ground that Counties and Districts were the same here, and that if it passed with the clause providing that the Committee should consist of one from each County, the smaller Counties would have an undue predominance in the committee.

The resolution was unanimously passed, however, and the Convention at 12 o'clock, adjourned till half past two.

**AFTERNOON SESSION.**  
At half past 2 P. M., the Convention was called to order.

Mr. Dolman, of Nemaha, from the committee to whom was referred the naming and arrangements to prepare business for the Convention, reported in favor of the appointment of committees on the following subjects:

Executive Department.  
Judiciary.  
Legislature.  
Slavery.  
Bill of Rights.  
Incorporations.  
Miscellaneous Matters.  
Revenue.  
Elections and Rights of Suffrage.  
Finance.  
Education.  
Internal Improvements.  
State Boundaries, Division into Counties and their ordinances.

Mr. Randolph, of Atchison, moved that the report be received and adopted.

Mr. Key wished before the motion was put, to offer a resolution providing that a committee of future amendments to the Constitution be added to those just reported.

Mr. Dolman thought that came under the head of miscellaneous business.

Mr. Hascall, of Atchison, moved that 100 copies of the list of the committees appointed by the chair under the resolution just offered, be printed for the use of the members of the Convention.

Mr. Batt, Jones, of Johnson, moved that each of the committees consist of five members.

Mr. Wells, of Douglas County, suggested that as there were thirteen committees, if five different members were appointed on each, the whole number of delegates would be more than exhausted.

The President explained that in legislative bodies it was customary to appoint the same individual on several committees.

Mr. Butcher, of Douglas County, moved as an amendment to Mr. Jones' motion, that the standing committees consist each of seven members.

Mr. Owen C. Stewart offered a motion to the effect that, as the Committee on Elections had not yet reported on the cases of the Anderson and Franklin County delegations, and as all the members of that Convention had not yet appeared, it would be but judicious to allow the President to act on his own discretion in fixing the number on each committee.

Mr. Hascall moved that the Convention adjourn on Saturday, till the 18th of October next, when the committees should present their reports. He offered this motion for the purpose of bringing up the question of adjournment.

Mr. Butcher moved to lay the motion on the table. A division being called for 16 were found in favor of 16 opposed to the resolution.

The President declared it to be carried.  
Mr. Key moved that the committee be directed to report on the first Monday in November. Laid on the table.

Mr. Henderson offered a motion providing for the adjournment of the Convention to-morrow (Friday evening) until the second Monday in October, when the committees should report.

Mr. Vandercil offered to amend by adjourning to meet at Leavenworth.

Mr. Henderson would not accept the amendment.

Mr. Vandercil would then take a vote on it. Mr. Henderson subsequently modified his resolution so as to read that a committee of five be appointed to report on the advisability of taking a recess for a few days after this week.

Mr. Jenkins argued strenuously that the matter should be decided rather by the Convention as a body than by a committee.

Mr. Henderson made a speech in reply to Mr. Jenkins, in the course of which he asserted, that he had proposed the reference of the matter to a committee because he thought the reasons for the proposed adjournment should be made known to the world, and that could only be effected in a formal way by the report of a committee.

His motion was put and lost.

Mr. Vandercil then moved to adjourn till Friday morning at the usual hour. Lost.

Mr. Henderson moved that when the Convention adjourn, it adjourn to meet at Leavenworth on the second Monday in October, when the various standing committees should be prepared to report. This motion, he said, was made for the purpose of taking the sense of the Convention on the period of adjournment.

Mr. Butcher, of Douglas county, called on Mr. Henderson to reduce his motion to writing.

Mr. Stewart, of Douglas, made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Henderson hoped the gentleman (Stewart), would extend to him the ordinary courtesy of debate, by permitting the house to pass on his motion.

Mr. Stewart disclaimed any intentional discourtesy to the gentleman from Leavenworth, but felt called on to insist on the house to decide the motion to adjourn.

The motion on adjournment was then put and carried, and the Convention separated to meet at the usual hour on Friday morning.

**FIFTH DAY.**

After the routine business of the day, including the admission of a delegate who had not yet taken the oath, had been transacted, the report of the Committee on the Anderson county election, being the order for the day, was taken up and a warm discussion ensued, not so much on its merits, as on the propriety of postponing action on the matter till after the recess.

This was eventually effected through a motion to lay the papers on the table, with the understanding that after the first meeting after the adjournment, they should be taken up and finally disposed of.

Subsequently, Judge Elmore rose, and by request of Mr. Gilpatrick and Mr. Campbell, the gentlemen claiming seats as delegates from Anderson county, withdrew their certificates of election from further consideration. The report on the case of Mr. Cole, the gentleman claiming to be elected in Franklin county, was adverse to his admission as a delegate, and on being submitted to the Convention was unanimously adopted.

The remainder of the morning session and all the afternoon session, were consumed in a debate on the time and place of adjournment.

Col. Henderson strenuously urged the propriety of adjourning to Leavenworth, but the motion to that effect was defeated.

As to the period of adjournment, much difference of opinion prevailed. A motion to adjourn until the first Monday in November, was lost. A motion making the second Monday in October the next day of meeting, was also lost. The Convention eventually agreed to adjourn till the third Monday in October.

**The Great American—The Giant of the World.**

Some weeks ago we gave a few facts in regard to the weight and dimensions of Miles Darden, and promised our readers, through the courtesy of a friend in Henderson county, further items of interest. The friend we referred to was the Rev. John Brooks, whose veracity, we believe, has never been questioned by any one. He writes as follows:

"Mr. Darden was born in North Carolina, in the year 1798, and departed this life at his residence in Henderson county, Tennessee, on the 23d day of January, 1857, in the 59th year of his age."

He joined the Baptist church in early life, and shortly after emigrated to Tennessee, where he connected himself with what is called the Christian church, but had not been a member of any church for years past, but was moral and fond of conversing on religious subjects. He was an obliging and kind neighbor, and fond of company. About 15 years ago he joined the order of Masons. He was twice married. His children are very large, but probably none of them will be more than half the weight of their father. He was quite active and lively, and labored until about four years ago, when he became so feebly that he was compelled to stay at home, or to be hauled about in a two horse wagon.

"In 1849 he made a contract with a tailor to furnish him a suit of clothes for \$50—the cloth was to cost \$5 per yard. Upon measurement it took 12 yards of cloth. So the tailor lost \$10 and the making. The tailor states that three men, each weighing over 300 pounds, put the coat on, buttoned it around them, and walked across the square at Lexington. In 1850 it took 13½ yards of flax cloth, a yard wide, to make him a coat. It took 16 yards of cambric for his shirt; 24 yards of black velvet to cover the sides and lid of his coffin, and 128 feet of plank to make his coffin."

"His coffin was eight feet long; across the breast 22 inches; across the head 18 inches; across the foot 14 inches; in depth 35 inches.—He weighed, in 1854, 671 pounds. His height was seven feet six inches. His weight, when he died, as nearly as could be ascertained, was a fraction over 1,000."—Jackson (Tenn.) Whig.

**NITRIC ACID IN RAIN WATER.**—In a celebrated French scientific paper there was published some time ago on account of some interesting experiments made by M. Liebig, on rain water, with the view of ascertaining its various impurities. Among other foreign matters, a perceptible quantity of nitric acid, combined with lime or ammonia, was found in all the specimens of rain water collected by the storms. The same was the case with regard to snow and hail. Small traces of iron, magnesia, and muriate of soda, are generally found in rain water during storms. The formation of the nitric acid in rain water, is referred by Liebig to the agency of the electric fluid in passing through the atmosphere. It is well known that nitric acid and common air are composed of the same elemental gases, oxygen and nitrogen—but of course they are combined in different proportions in the two different substances.

Senator Rank was the son of a very poor Irish emigrant, who settled in South Carolina, on land belonging to John C. Calhoun. He was a stone cutter by trade.

## Useful and Curious.

### An Ocean River in the Pacific.

Lieutenant Bent, of the United States Navy, read an interesting paper before the geographical and Statistical Society, last evening, on the existence of an ocean river in the Pacific, flowing to the northward and eastward along the coast of Asia, and corresponding, in every essential particular, with the Gulf stream of the Atlantic. By a series of careful observations with barometers and air and water thermometers, together with abstracts from the logs of the winds, currents and daily positions of the ships of the Pacific squadron, the data from which were made diagrams of various passages between the different points on the Asiatic coast, and the eastern half of the Pacific ocean, were obtained.

These diagrams show an increased temperature of both sea and water the moment this stream is entered, but that of the water is generally the greater, and so continues until the stream is left. On the northwestern edge, the transactions are comparatively abrupt, but less so on the southeastern; and along the whole line of the stream, as well as in the middle of it, strong tide rips, resembling heavy breakers on shoals or reefs, are constantly encountered. The existence of a strong North-East current on the coast of Japan was noticed by Cook and other early navigators, and the Japanese have given it the name of the "Kuro-Siwo," or "Black Stream," from its dark blue color, as compared with that of the adjacent ocean.—Springing from the great Equatorial current of the Pacific, the oceanic stream extends from the Tropic of Cancer on the north to Capricorn, with a width on the south of three thousand miles, and a velocity of from twenty to sixty miles a day.

Upon reaching the coast of Asia, it is directed to the West, and in passing through the great Polynesian Archipelago, is split into innumerable streams, which diffuse a fertilizing warmth over all that portion of the globe. The "Kuro-Siwo," which extends from the southern end of the Island of Formosa to the Straits of Sangor, is, consequently, an offshoot of the parent stream. It washes the whole coast of Japan as far as the Straits of Sangor, separating Nippon from Jesso, with an average velocity of from 35 to 40 miles, and a width varying from 100 to 500 miles. At this point a current of cold water, running counter, and intervening between it and the southern and eastern coast of Jesso, is encountered. It is supposed to proceed from the Arctic Ocean, and is so powerful that a vessel attempting to make headway